

**Amendments to the Claims:**

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A method ~~of controlling access to a content item in a system comprising a set of devices, the method~~ comprising:

associating, by ~~the system~~ a provider of a content item, at least one usage right with the content item;[[;]]

decomposing, by the ~~system~~ provider, the usage right into a set of partial rights;[[;]]

~~and subsequently separately~~ digitally signing, by a machine of the system provider, each one partial right of the set of partial rights, resulting in a corresponding signature set of signed partial rights; and

providing, by the machine, the content item and the set of signed partial rights to a device of a set of devices at a client system.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one device in the set of devices ~~system~~ is able to access and exercise at least one partial right of the set of signed partial rights after verification of the ~~corresponding signature~~ signed partial right.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein one partial right of the set of signed partial rights associated with the content item comprises one of: a render right, a transfer right, an offer right, a derivative work right, and a utility right.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one partial right of the set of signed partial rights can only be exercised a limited number of times.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 2, ~~wherein the method further comprises a step where one device of the set of devices verifies including verifying whether the~~ at least one partial right and an authorization of the issuer thereof provider have both not been revoked before exercising the at least one partial right.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein said system comprises a set of devices, making up including creating a domain comprising of a plurality of devices of the set of devices that~~ which are related to a household or limited group of consumers.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein a ~~minimum~~ required protection level of at least one partial right of the set of partial rights is indicated along with the at least one partial right.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein a ~~minimum~~ required protection level of at least one partial right of the set of signed partial rights is derived implicitly from ~~the a~~ type of the at least one partial right.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6, ~~wherein the method further comprises including allowing at least one the device in the system, to:~~

identify a different device,

~~to subsequently sign information comprising a combination of that includes at least one partial right of the set of signed partial rights and at least one out of: [[-]] an identification of the domain, [[-]] an identification of the different device, and [[-]] information about length and validity of the partial right~~ to create a signed information item,

~~and to subsequently transfer this signed combination information item to the~~ different device.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~6~~ 1, ~~wherein the method further comprises including allowing at least one the device in the system, to:~~  
identify a different device,  
~~to subsequently sign at least one partial right of the set of signed partial rights to create at least one other signed partial right;~~  
and ~~to subsequently transfer the~~ at least one other signed partial right to the different device.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the different device ~~participates as representing~~ is a member of a different domain.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, ~~wherein the transfer to the different device is allowed to occur only after at least one of the device and the different device has been verified by the other including verifying, by the device, that the~~ different device ~~to be~~ is at least one of being compliant and being non revoked.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11, including revoking or deleting the at least one partial right by the device, after the transfer ~~wherein the partial right is revoked or deleted by the device which transfers the right to the different device.~~

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6, ~~wherein the method further comprising allowing at least one device in the system, wherein the usage right is associated with the content item by a content provider, wherein the usage right comprises an offer right (for a specific right), and the method further comprising~~ includes:  
requesting the ~~content~~ provider to execute the offer right and deliver the specific right to a specified third party, ~~upon which the content provider, after verification of conditions that may apply, delivers and~~  
delivering, by the provider, the specific right directly to the specified third party.

15-18 (Canceled)

19. (New) The method of claim 11, including verifying, by the different device, that the device is at least one of being compliant and being non revoked.

20. (New) A client system comprising:

- a plurality of devices that are interconnected via a network;

- wherein at least one device includes:

- a memory that is configured to receive a content item and a set of signed partial rights from a server system,

- a digital rights module that is configured to:

- receive a request for access to the content item from an other device on the network,

- identify a partial right of the set of signed partial rights corresponding to the request,

- verify the partial right, and

- grant the request for access based on verification of the partial right.

21. (New) The device of claim 20, wherein the digital rights module is configured to revoke or delete the partial right after granting the request for access.

22. (New) A device comprising:

- a memory that is configured to receive a content item and a set of signed partial rights from a server system,

- a digital rights module that is configured to:

- receive a request for access to the content item from an other device,

- identify a partial right of the set of signed partial rights corresponding to the request,

- verify the partial right, and

- grant the request for access based on verification of the partial right.

23. (New) The device of claim 21, wherein the digital rights module is configured to revoke or delete the partial right after granting the request for access.

24. (New) A server system comprising:

- a memory that is configured to store a content item and a usage right associated with the content item,

- a digital signing element that is configured to decompose the usage right into a set of partial rights and sign each partial right to create a set of signed partial rights, and

- a transfer element that is configured to transfer the content item and the set of signed partial rights to a client system.